



RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1966



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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Meriden Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1966.

The report relates, of course, to the work of my predecessor, Dr. R. S. McElroy, who took his retirement on the 30th April, 1967. The social services also administered in the capacity of Area Medical Officer on behalf of the Warwickshire County Council are not specifically mentioned here, since full details will be found in the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer.

In presenting the report, I must first make reference to my predecessor. Prior to his appointment as Medical Officer of Health in 1956 he had spent twenty-five years in the Colonial Medical Service and a shorter period in Wiltshire. He therefore brought with him a profound knowledge of Public Health in all its spheres, and I am certain that the Council would like me to record their appreciation of his eleven years service, and to wish him well in his retirement.

In a study of the vital statistics for 1966, one must be aware of the fact that owing to the change of boundary during the year, the Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population is a weighted average of the mid-year population of the area as constituted before and after the change. This has been done to enable valid birth and death rates to be calculated. The difference between the estimated mid-year populations for the years 1965 and 1966 (61,890 and 61,320 respectively) shows a decrease of 570. There has been a continuance of the downward trend in the birth-rate from 17.66 births per 1,000 population in 1965 to 15.98 in 1966. During the same period there has been a slight increase in the death rate from 7.34 deaths per 1,000 population to 7.65. The development in the Chelmsley Wood area resulting in a doubling of the population in 1971, will produce a major change in the character of the district, and, it is anticipated, also influence the trends in the vital statistics.

Generally speaking, the health of the community has remained satisfactory, there being no outbreaks of serious communicable disease. The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases declined sharply, being due in the main to a decrease in the number of cases of measles. During the year, there were sporadic cases of smallpox (*Variola minor*) particularly in the Midlands. Although there were none in the Meriden Rural District, in a neighbouring county borough there were three cases of smallpox in one family, a mother and her two sons, none of whom had been vaccinated. The father, who had been vaccinated whilst serving in H.M. Forces, did not

contract the disease. It is salutary at this juncture to remind ourselves that the possibility of the introduction into this country of diseases not normally endemic here is increased by the ever increasing amount of travel to and from foreign countries.

The benefits to be derived from immunising procedures—now all generally referred to as ‘vaccinations’—are well illustrated by the extremely low incidence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis throughout the country. In this district, there have been no cases of diphtheria notified since 1949 and no cases of poliomyelitis since 1957. Prophylactic measures carried out during infancy are now taken for granted by mothers of young children, but complacency among parents must never be permitted since a reduction in the level of immunity in the child population could have disastrous consequences.

Those sections of the report which are concerned with the sanitary circumstances of the District—general inspections, nuisances, housing, water supply, inspection of meat and other foods and air pollution statistics have been compiled by your Chief Public Health Inspector.

I am indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for the information which he has provided regarding sewerage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

On behalf of Dr. McElroy, I would like to thank the Inspectorate and other members of the staff for their loyal support during his term of office and for the zealous way in which they have carried out their duties. The ready co-operation and help from members of other departments must also be recorded.

J. E. PEARSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
COLESHILL.

October, 1967.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1966

Chairman of the Council :

N. A. EDWARDS

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

C. W. MANN

Clerk of the Council :

RAYMOND E. HALE, F.C.C.S.

Public Health Committee: 1966-67

Antrobus, W.	Greensmith, H.	Neal, W.P.
Barnes, Mrs. D.	Gregg, Mrs. M.	Nicholas, R. N.
Bradley Miller, K.	Heath, H. W.	Parry, Mrs. E. I.
Cockersole, B. F.	Kelsey, H.	Sakne, E.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Mann, C. W.	Wallace, Mrs. D. V.
Day, A. R.	Meddings, R. W.	Watts, Mrs. D. J.
Earle, R. J.	Mitchell, P. J.	Wills, H. C.
Edwards, N. A.	Mold, B.A.	Wyldebore-Smith, A. R.
Fish, E. G.	Page, J.	

Housing Committee: 1966-67

Aylesford, Earl of	Gregg, Mrs. M.	Neal, W. B.
Barnes, Mrs. D.	Harvey, W.	Nicholas, R. N.
Blunt, F. V.	Heath, H. W.	North, Mrs. E. M.
Boakes, G. W. R.	Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Page, J.
Bradley Miller, K.	Kelsey, E. J. O.	Parry, Mrs. E. I.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Knowles, T.	Prosser, D. W.
Day, A. R.	Lowe, G. H.	Sakne, E.
Earle, W. D.	Mann, C. W.	Wyldebore-Smith, A. R.
Edwards, N. A.	Martin, Mrs. L. E.	

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1966**

Medical Officer of Health :

R. S. McELROY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.
(to 30th April 1967).

J. E. PEARSON, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Also Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire
County Council).
(from 1st May 1967).

Chief Public Health Inspector :

R. HAINES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. B. STOKES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.
R. L. TUDGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.
E. FOSTER, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.
S. C. GOULD, M.A.P.H.I.
M. JOHNS, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Clerk :

J. D. MYNARD, L.M.R.S.H.

Council Offices :

Council House,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 3141.

Office of the Medical Officer of Health:

Area Health Office,
Park Road,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 2331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres.....	65,774
Population (estimated Mid. 1966)	61,320
Population (Census 1951)	38,075
Population (Census 1961)	57,520
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec. 1966)	17,550
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1966)	£2,618,293
Product of a penny rate	£10,622

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	479	446	925
Illegitimate	26	29	55
Totals	505	475	980

Birth Rate

15.98 per 1,000 estimated population

1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
15.98	17.66	18.65	18.58	19.37	19.60	20.20	19.08	20.03	18.55

Illegitimate Live Births. (Per cent. of total Live Births) = 5.61

Still Births

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	5	4	9

Still Birth Rate

9.10 per 1,000 total (live and still) births

1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
9.10	17.94	18.11	18.86	20.08	16.5	14.52	16.05	20.58	18.18

Total live and Still births = 989

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	258	211	469

Crude Death Rate

7.65 per 1,000 estimated population

1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
7.65	7.34	6.81	7.41	7.06	7.11	7.33	7.03	7.36	6.91

Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	1	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	1	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	18	4	22
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	25	47
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2	4
16.	Diabetes	3	4	7
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	32	34	66
18.	Coronary disease, angina	65	31	96
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	7	9
20.	Other heart disease	9	15	24
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	9	11
22.	Influenza	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	13	14	27
24.	Bronchitis	24	12	36
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	5	3	8
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	4	—	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	2	3	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	21	19	40
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	9	3	12
34.	All other accidents	6	5	11
35.	Suicide	3	3	6
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
37.	All causes	258	211	469

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year		Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
1956	..	46,820	813	351	+462
1957	..	49,490	918	342	+576
1958	..	52,260	1,047	385	+662
1959	..	54,590	1,042	384	+658
1960	..	56,960	1,153	418	+735
1961	..	57,750	1,132	411	+721
1962	..	60,430	1,171	427	+744
1963	..	62,430	1,160	463	+697
1964	..	64,240	1,261	446	+815
1965	..	61,890	1,093	454	+639
1966	..	61,320	980	469	+511

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	8	8	16
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	8	9	17
	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate.

17.35 per 1,000 births.

1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
17.35	12.72	15.20	12.93	18.78	15.01	17.34	14.39	16.2	20.7

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	6	6	12
	—	—	—

Neonatal Death Rate 12.24 per 1,000 live births.
(first four weeks)

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births
17.30

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per
1,000 total live births)
10.20

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	4	6	10
	—	—	—

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one
week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)
19.21

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
Births		
Live Births ..	*13.74	17.7
Still Births ..	9.10(a)	15.4
Deaths		
All causes	*11.55	11.7
Infant Mortality ..	17.35(b)	19.0
Neo-natal mortality	12.24(b)	11.1

* Using comparability factors (Births 0.86 and Deaths 1.50).
(a) per 1,000 total live and still births.
(b) per 1,000 live births.

Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms	47	45	92

Cancer Death Rate =1.50 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 61,320—a decrease of 570 from the 1965 total of 61,890.

Births

The standardised Birth Rate of 13.74 per 1,000 estimated population was lower than the figure of 17.7 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The standardised Death Rate of 11.55 per 1,000 population was again less than that of 11.7 for England and Wales. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the central nervous system predominating in the order given. Cancer in various forms caused 92 deaths. Of these, 22 were due to lung cancer—four fewer than last year—affecting 18 males and 4 females.

Motor vehicle accidents were responsible for nine male and three female deaths.

For the fifteenth year in succession no mother died in childbirth.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Although several cases were assessed for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation, in no instance was statutory action necessary on my part for compulsory removal under Section 47 of the Act.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1966.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1965 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases re- moved to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages	Un- der 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up- w'ds.		
Measles	588 (1,077)	18	286	280	4	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	63 (31)	5	33	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	16 (28)	—	2	12	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12 (13)	—	1	3	3	—	3	2	—	27
Malaria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	72 (22)	6	22	11	8	13	12	—	59	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7 (45)	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	7	—
Meningococcal Infection	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3 (3)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12 (18)	—	1	2	2	2	3	2	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4 (4)	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	3 (—)	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	—
Totals	781 (1,243)	32	345	333	25	21	20	5	72	28

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

Notifiable Disease	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Measles	588	1,077	379	1028	93	1,980	21	344	619	1,006
Whooping Cough	63	31	25	40	11	49	71	72	20	112
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	2	—	4	6	2	4	2	5	3
Enteric Fever . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever . . .	16	28	25	15	15	36	35	54	46	15
Pneumonia	12	13	13	16	17	35	23	63	42	48
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	72	22	106	90	158	46	48	96	41	36
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	45	9	91	79	98	67	98	111	118
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	—
Acute Poliomye- litis : Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Non-paralytic . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Infective Encephalitis . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . .	3	3	—	43	22	9	3	8	24	34
Pulmonary Tuberculosis . .	12	18	12	9	19	27	19	15	33	18
Other forms of Tuberculosis . .	4	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	2	3
Food Poisoning . .	3	—	—	8	9	7	17	11	2	—
Totals	781	1,243	571	1,349	443	2,293	313	769	945	1,405

General Comment

Compared with 1965, notifications of infectious diseases decreased from 1,243 to 781, for the most part due to the decreased incidence of measles, in keeping with the bi-ennial periodicity of this disease.

Whooping Cough

Cases reported increased from 31 to 63, mostly in the 1-5 year age group.

The following table gives details of the immunisation campaign where, for the most part, the injection against whooping cough is combined with those against diphtheria and tetanus.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1966.

	Age at Date of Injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	262	545	15	7	5	834
Reinforcing	1	472	31	50	1	555
Totals	263	1,017	46	57	6	1,389

Diphtheria

For the seventeenth successive year no cases have been notified but this satisfactory state of affairs gives no ground for complacency because the disease still does occur in this country.

The table sub-pended summarises the work undertaken by General Practitioners and County Council Staff.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1966.

(Comparative figures for 1965 are given in parentheses)

	Age at date of injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	262 (296)	545 (739)	21 (41)	45 (14)	21 (5)	894 (1,095)
Re-inforcing	— (—)	478 (474)	75 (117)	835 (912)	479 (445)	1,867 (1,948)
Totals	262 (296)	1,023 (1,213)	96 (158)	880 (926)	500 (450)	2,761 (3,043)

Smallpox

Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1966

(Comparative figures for 1965 are given in parentheses.)

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated	17 (19)	216 (279)	246 (303)	60 (25)	7 (4)	546 (630)
Re-Vaccinated	()	()	6 (4)	63 (19)	13 (8)	82 (31)
Totals	17 (19)	216 (279)	252 (307)	123 (44)	20 (12)	628 (661)

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of 16 cases decreased by 12 compared with 1965, the majority in the 5-15 year age group and all of a mild nature.

Pneumonia

12 cases were reported, most of which were in persons of 15 and upwards. In addition, 27 deaths were notified the excess of 15 relating to fatalities where Pneumonia was only a second cause of mortality.

Dysentery

72 cases were notified compared with 22 in 1965. Most of the cases refer to an outbreak at Colehill Hall Hospital and St. Theresa's Nursery, which is part of Father Hudson's Homes. Fortunately both of the outbreaks were in institutes which had medical supervision readily available and with the willing co-operation of all concerned both outbreaks were well contained and in due course satisfactorily cleared.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Reports decreased from 45 to 7 all from Marston Green Maternity Hospital where deliveries for the year were 4,215 so that the incidence was relatively low.

Acute Poliomyelitis

For the ninth successive year no cases came to light and the following table summarises the vaccination campaign. Sabin Vaccine is now almost exclusively used for these procedures.

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations completed during 1966

Oral	Primary	Booster	Totals
0—1	686	21	707
2—5	364	506	870
6—15	113	450	563
Total	1,163	977	2,140

Salk	Primary	Booster	Totals
0—1	3	—	3
2—5	—	10	10
6—15	14	35	49
Total	17	45	62

Tuberculosis

During the year 12 new cases of pulmonary and four of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 18 and four cases respectively in 1965. Inward transfers of cases already notified elsewhere totalled eight with the majority re-housed by Birmingham Corporation in their Kingshurst Estate and for the most part arrested or quiescent and non-infectious but, of course, still subject to regular supervision.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1966

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1965	215	144	19	35
2. New Cases	7	5	3	1
3. Inward Transfers	2	5	—	1
4. Removals	46	39	6	14
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1966	178	115	16	23

The Chest Clinic which opened at Coleshill in 1954 with Dr. Zundel in charge finally closed on the 30th June. Most of the patients were transferred to Birmingham Chest Clinic and will

continue to be dealt with from there in future. The reason for the closure was the falling numbers in tuberculous patients and the fact that the premises in Coleshill were urgently needed for the accommodation of other personnel in the Area Health Department.

In view of this closure I have omitted the table regarding attendances at the clinic since these are incomplete.

The sex incidence and age groups of the new pulomary cases is shown in the following table.

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths Notified during 1966

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	7	5	3	1	—	—	—	—

Suspected milk supplies are investigated by the County Health Department regarding the District and the position was as follows :

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1966

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples.	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested	15	Nil

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In April the Upper Tame Main Drainage became the statutory authority for the treatment and disposal of sewage over a wide area including the whole of the rural district, leaving the council the statutory sewerage authority.

Re-sewering of parts of Castle Bromwich was completed early in the year. Sewer extension schemes in Meeting House Lane, Berkswell and Keresley End were started, but the former contract was terminated after only a portion had been laid, owing to unsatisfactory performance. At Chadwick End a scheme was commenced by the Warwick Rural District for sewerage in Baddesley Clinton and both council's parts of Chadwick End and good progress had been made by the end of the year.

At the request of the Ministry of Transport a scheme was prepared for the provision of public conveniences on both carriage-ways of the A.45 trunk road at Stonebridge and a tender had been approved at the end of the year. The cost of provision is being shared equally between the Ministry of Transport, the Warwickshire County Council and the District Council.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The various collection services have been operated satisfactorily during the year. Some concern was expressed at the obtaining of further worked out excavations for the controlled tipping of house refuse for future use. In competition with industrial concerns the council is often at a disadvantage, and the Warwickshire County Council, as Local Planning Authority, was requested to investigate the possibility of programming suitable areas for this purpose in development plans.

Further progress was made with the replacement of pail closets and since the approach to owners of property in 1960, 342 pail closets have been replaced and proposals in respect of a further 68 have been approved.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Inspections and visits made :

Public Health Acts

Nuisances	1,449
Sewers and drains	755
Ditches and water courses	92
Filthy and verminous premises	11
Infestations	70
Infectious diseases	209
Water supplies	324
Moveable dwellings other than caravans ..	9

Noise Abatement Act

Noise nuisances	129
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Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act

Caravans and caravan sites	661
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Housing Act

Houses recorded	44
Other visits	1,034
Overcrowding	33

Food and Drugs Act

Food premises (including registered premises)	1,020
Food stalls and vehicles	77
Bakehouses	23
Slaughterhouses (premises)	101
Food complaints (investigations)	40
Food examination (including meat inspection)	1,907

Clean Air Act

Smoke observations and inspections of premises	729
Other visits including surveys for smoke control areas	915

Factories Act

Factories:	
Non-power	1
Power	142
Others	14

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Offices and shops—recorded inspections ..	62
Re-inspections	268
Other visits	35

Rent Act	13
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

(excluding visits by rodent operator)	83
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National Assistance Act, section 50	8
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	43
Miscellaneous	290
	<hr/>
	10,591
	<hr/>

Complaints investigated 1,294

Nuisances

Nuisances reported and dealt with, including housing defects, totalled 1,003. Among the items of interest were:—

1. The “Homefire” plant of the National Coal Board. This new works, situated at Keresley in the Council’s area, near to the boundary with Coventry and Bedworth, produces smokeless fuel briquettes. It had not reached full production by the end of the year, and initial difficulties inherent in the commissioning of new plant had not been entirely overcome. Dense black smoke from the main stack gave rise to many complaints, but there was a considerable improvement by the end of the year. Special equipment had to be installed to extract fumes from the press hall. The fumes when discharged to the air after inadequate filtration caused a serious nuisance to local residents, and the noise of the exhausters fans brought complaints from a wide area, including houses in Coventry. Under pressure from the Alkali Works Inspectorate, who are responsible for control of the main process, and the public health inspectors with regard to the noise problem, the Board have done much towards eliminating the nuisances. The noise has now been reduced to a more acceptable level, and further modifications are being made to the extraction plant to lessen the emission of fumes.
2. The Coleshill Works of the West Midlands Gas Board. The major nuisance from smell, which was an early feature of the ‘Lurgi’ gas-making process at this site, is now under better control, but there were complaints in October about a heavy deposit of soot over the nearby village of Water Orton. This was found to be due to an accident at the works. Although normally there is little or no visible smoke from the main chimney, from time to time a very dark smoke is still emitted for quite long periods.

This plant too is under the supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate, but complaints about it are usually directed to the Council initially. The emission of dark smoke is an embarrassment to the Council in their attempts to control domestic smoke emission in neighbouring villages.

3. The spoil bank at Arley Colliery. This burnt-out heap of colliery waste is now being quarried and sold for hard filling. The process has given rise to a serious nuisance from dust. Intervention by the public health inspectors has resulted in the installation of water sprays, which have markedly reduced the nuisance.
4. Complaints of the extensive flooding by surface water at Arley and Castle Bromwich were received during August. There had been exceptionally heavy storms, and the surface water sewers could not cope with the rush of water. The incident at Castle Bromwich gave rise to local suspicion that the Council's recently completed scheme for removing the foul sewers had not been adequate. This was not so; preliminary investigations showed the surface water flooding to be a separate problem. Following reports to the Public Health Committee, consultant civil engineers were instructed to investigate and report. The problem at Arley was associated with the inadequacy of the foul sewers, in respect of which the Council's consultant engineers were already under instructions to prepare a scheme. Up to mid-1967 there had been no reports of further flooding from either village.

Enforcement

Verbal warnings given	234
Preliminary notices served	319
Statutory notices served	11
Legal proceedings	none

HOUSING

Register of Applications for Council Houses

Number of applications on register at end of year :	
General needs	312
Slum clearance	
General	36
Old people	20
Agricultural	19
Old people (other than slum clearance)	124
	<hr/>
	511
	<hr/>

(Comparative total, December 1965-522)

Number of houses available for letting during year
(all types, including flats) :

New houses completed	10
Casual vacancies	45
less transfers to new houses	2
	<hr/>
	53
	<hr/>

Allocations

General needs	27
General needs (old people)	5
Slum clearance	8
Slum clearance (old people)	6
Agriculture	1
Other priorities, including Council staff	6
	<hr/> 53 <hr/>

Transfers approved :

between Council tenants	24
" " " and tenants of other houses (including those owned by other local authorities)	2
	<hr/> 26 <hr/>

Houses available for letting since 1960

Year	Building completions	Casual Vacancies
1960	—	61
1961	54	50
1962	63	49
1963	—	38
1964	37	72
1965	105	31
1966	10	43
	<hr/> 369 <hr/>	<hr/> 344 <hr/>

Average number of new dwellings completed per year (approximately)	53
Average number of casual vacancies per year (approximately)	49

Although only 10 new houses became available for letting in 1966, further schemes are in course of erection and the total completions during 1967 will exceed the average of earlier years.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Clearance Areas

Number of orders made	—
Number of houses affected	—
Number of orders confirmed	1
Number of houses demolished	—

Single houses

Number of demolition orders made	26
Number of houses demolished	17
Number of undertakings accepted that houses will cease to be used for habitation	9
Number of closing orders made	1
Number of houses made fit—	
by owners, voluntarily	69
by owners, after formal notices	9
by Council, in default of owners	—

Improvement of houses

Number of requests by tenants for compulsory improvement of houses	—
Number of undertakings to carry out improve- ments accepted from owners	—
Number of houses improved in accordance with undertakings given	—

The district includes no substantial groups of sub-standard houses suitable for inclusion in compulsory improvement areas under section 13 of the Housing Act, 1964.

Overcrowding

Position at end of year :—

Number of private houses known to be overcrowded	3
Number of Council houses known to be overcrowded	2
Number of families involved	6
Number of persons involved	54
Cases relieved during year by Council	1
Cases relieved during year otherwise	—

Rent Act, 1957

Applications received during year	—
Certificate of disrepair issued.....	—

Common Lodging Houses

There are none in the district.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Council is not a statutory water undertaker. The district is included in the areas of four water authorities, as shown in the table on the following page.

Supplies have been generally satisfactory both in quality and quantity. There is no problem of plumbo-solvency. Twelve precautionary samples taken for bacteriological examination were reported satisfactory; these were additional to routine sampling carried out by the respective undertakings.

The extent to which piped water supplies are available is shown by the table which follows. The use of standpipes is not customary anywhere in the Council's district, supplies being direct to the houses in all known cases.

Parish	Total Houses	Houses without mains water available	Houses having water mains available			
			Birmingham Water Department	Coventry Water Department	N.E.W'shire Water Board	S. Staffs Waterworks Co.
Allesley ..	247	3	—	244	—	—
Arley ..	966	2	—	—	964	—
Astley ..	65	5	—	—	60	—
Balsall ..	1,180	12	—	1,168	—	—
Barston ..	160	7	—	153	—	—
Berkswell ..	728	5	—	723	—	—
Bickenhill ..	1,172	1	1,171	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich ..	2,809	—	2,809	—	—	—
Coleshill ..	1,961	4	1,957	—	—	—
Corley ..	253	—	—	253	—	—
Curdworth ..	175	—	175	—	—	—
Fillongley ..	551	88	459	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden ..	474	7	—	467	—	—
Keresley ..	235	—	—	235	—	—
Kingshurst ..	3,320	—	3,320	—	—	—
Lea Marston ..	87	1	86	—	—	—
Maxstoke ..	83	30	53	—	—	—
Meriden ..	712	14	—	698	—	—
Middleton ..	232	—	—	—	—	232
Packington ..	64	13	46	5	—	—
Shustoke ..	192	—	192	—	—	—
Water Orton ..	1,099	—	1,099	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre ..	283	1	282	—	—	—
Over Whitacre ..	110	—	110	—	—	—
Wishaw and Moxhull ..	65	—	—	—	—	65
Totals	17,223	193	11,759	3,946	1,028	297

Percentage of houses which do not have public water mains available is 1.12 compared with 1.58 in 1965.

SAMPLING

In addition to the twelve bacteriological samples from public supplies, the following samples were taken from other sources.

Nature of Source	Chemical		Bacteriological	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Old Wells	2	—	19	22
Springs	1	—	1	5
Totals	3	—	20	27

Additional water mains laid during year :

Locality	Length of main (yards)	Estimated Cost £	No. of properties to be served
(a) Scheme approved in 1966			
Quarry Cottage, Coventry Road, Over Whitacre	170	880	1
(b) Schemes approved in 1965			
Holly Lane, Wishaw, to Allen End, Middleton	1,110	3,150	4
Grove Lane, Wishaw, to Middleton Boundary	900	2,500	4
Atherston Road, Over Whitacre	1,383	5,600	10
Castle Lane to Coleshill Road, Maxstoke	667	2,600	4
(c) Schemes aproved in 1964			
Tippers Hill Lane, Fillongley	254	990	2
Little Packington	4,269	19,890	21
Church Lane, Corley Moor	800	1,800	4
In addition, the following schemes were approved and ordered, although the work had not been started by the end of the year.			
Kenilworth Road, Hampton-in-Arden	1,230	3,370	6
Tamworth Road, Middleton	1,500	3,650	5
Chapel Green, Fillongley	1,320	6,560	8
Hortense House, Netherwood Lane, Chadwick End	217	715	1
Fillongley and Maxstoke	14,796	*74,379	102

* Council's share of total cost, excluding contibution by Water Undertaking.

The few properties which still do not have public supplies available are nearly all in remote situations. The scheme now in hand for the parishes of Fillongley and Maxstoke will serve about one-half of them. The provision of mains for the rest will be a costly undertaking, perhaps out of proportion to the value of the properties to be served. However, the Council are committed to

a policy of ensuring that a public piped supply of water will eventually be available to every house. In considering the expense incurred in implementing this policy, the important factor to be borne in mind is the overall burden on the community, rather than the cost in respect of individual houses. Looked at in this light, the rate-borne expenditure on water supplies in the Council's district is, and is likely to be, relatively modest.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND HANDLING

Inspection of all food animals killed in slaughterhouses has been maintained. The following table shows the inspections and condemnations in summary form.

Meat Inspection

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	3,677	101	421	25,373	9,546
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	15	75	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	621	19	4	3,179	1,975
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	17	23.8	4.5	12.8	20.8
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	8	2	—	—	106
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.25	2	0.25	—	1.1
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	20	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Food Condemnations

Meat

		Tuberculosis			All other		
		cwts. qrs. lbs.			diseases and		
		cwts. qrs. lbs.			conditions		
		cwts. qrs. lbs.			cwts. qrs. lbs.		
Cattle (excluding cows)							
	Carcase meat	3	1		11	3	17
	Offals	1	5		46	2	11
Cows	Carcase meat	3	3	19	19	1	0
	Offals			15	2	0	8
Sheep	Carcase meat				22	2	22
	Offals				47	0	4
Pigs	Carcase meat	13	0	6	21	0	2
	Offals			3	16	3	5
Calves	Carcase meat	2		4	17	3	5
Totals		18	2	25	205	0	18

Eight licensed slaughterhouses continue in use and are satisfactorily maintained. It has not been necessary to restrict slaughtering hours; the Council’s power to do so under the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, is itself a deterrent to butchers who might otherwise slaughter at unreasonable times.

Fifty-two persons are licensed as slaughtermen.

Poultry Inspection

The district includes some fairly large-scale producers of eggs and live poultry but no large slaughtering establishment. The preparation of poultry for the table is limited mainly to casual farmhouse processing. Visits are made from time to time to premises known to be engaging in this activity, but as slaughtering is not notified and is done at irregular intervals, full inspection is impracticable. No significant disease has been discovered.

In anticipation of a possible increase in the slaughtering of poultry, two of the district inspectors have recently attended a refresher course in poultry inspection.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

A classified list of premises in the district to which the Regulations apply is given below.

Category	Number inspected and recorded	Number complying with Regulation 16*	Number to which Regulation 19 applies*	Number complying with Regulation 19
Grocery	71	68	69	69
Grocery and General (not exclusively food) ..	45	41	42	42
Bread and cakes	8	7	7	6
Sweets and confectionery ..	32	28	31	31
Greengrocery	37	33	33	32
Butchery	34	29	32	32
Fish, wet and/or fried ..	12	11	12	12
Restaurants, Cafes, etc. ..	28	27	27	25
Hotels and Licensed Premises	88	85	85	85
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food)	6	6	5	3
Industrial Catering ..	36	34	35	35
Bakehouses	4	4	4	4
School Kitchens	29	26	28	28
	430	399	410	404

* Regulation 16 requires the provision of wash-hand basins for the use of food personnel.
Regulation 19 requires the provision of sinks for washing food and equipment where open food is handled.

Visits to food premises of all kinds (but not including slaughterhouses) totalled 1,120. The following defects and contraventions were discovered in the course of routine inspections.

Defects of premises and lack of proper maintenance	203
Defective or inadequate equipment	48
Unhygienic practices	142
Miscellaneous contraventions involving food vehicles	22
	<hr/> 415 <hr/>

This is slow, unrewarding work and any progress made is difficult to evaluate. Many of the contraventions found, including seventeen cases of lack of personal hygiene and fifty-three involving dirty equipment could have been the subject of legal proceedings. However, experience has shown that better long-term results are achieved by education and persuasion than by punitive measures. None of the cases reported was so gross as to make court proceedings unavoidable, and all were dealt with by informal warnings.

Registered food premises

Premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	4
Sale only of ice-cream	143
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	22
Fish frying.....	12

Ice-cream sampling

The following table gives the results of bacteriological examination of the samples taken during the year :

				Mobiles				Premises			
Grade				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft ice-cream				10	3	2	3	2	—	—	—
Other ice-cream				—	—	—	—	6	4	1	1

Milk and Dairies

Registered distributors of milk:

Retail dairymen having premises in the district	37
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk	51
	<hr/>
	88
	<hr/>

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Smoke Control Programme

The Council’s No. 1 Smoke Control Order in respect of the Chelmsley Wood Estate was made in April. There was a small amount of opposition among the occupiers of old properties to be affected, which however resulted in only one written objection. Informal attempts to convince the sole objector were unsuccessful and a public local inquiry had to be held. The Order was subsequently confirmed (in January 1967) with only a minor drafting

modification, and will operate as from the 1st October, 1967. It covers an area of 1,840 acres and included at the outset a total of 729 properties. However, the main purpose of the Order is to control the large housing development now being undertaken by Birmingham Corporation, which will ultimately include some 15,590 houses, together with schools, churches and commercial and public buildings of various kinds.

At the same time the Council adopted a programme of smoke control which will cover most of five other parishes in the north-western part of the district, as follows:—

No.	Area	Estimated number of houses	Proposed Operative Date
1.	Chelmsley Wood	714 (plus 15,590 proposed)	1st October, 1967
2.	Kingshurst	3,200	1st October, 1968
3.	Castle Bromwich (a)	1,000	1st October, 1969
4.	Castle Bromwich (b)	1,000	1st October, 1970
5.	Castle Bromwich (c)	1,000	1st October, 1971
6.	Marston Green	1,000	1st October, 1972
7.	Water Orton	1,000	1st October, 1973
8.	Coleshill (a)	750	1st October, 1974
9.	Coleshill (b)	750	1st October, 1975

No proposal has yet been made for dealing with other parts of the district. It is unlikely that the Council's financial and administrative resources will permit any speeding up of the current programme, and it is thought impracticable to plan much beyond 1975.

Measurement of Air Pollution

Deposit gauges

It has been customary to report the results obtained from one only of the deposit gauges now in use, that at Lea Marston site, which is thought to be the most significant in relation to the Hams Hall power stations. In assessing the results, insoluble matter only is now given instead of total solids, thus excluding soluble material not derived from combustion. The change was made in April 1966, to accord with the current practice of the Ministry of Technology. On the new basis, the average insoluble matter from the Lea Marston gauge for 1966 was 12.15 tons per square mile per month, compared with 10.44 tons for 1965. It follows that direct comparisons cannot be made with figures published for earlier years.

Sulphur gauges

Results from the eight sulphur candles sited around the Hams Hall power stations gave an average of 1.32 empirical units, compared with 1.49 for 1965. This year shows the first small reversal of a slight upward trend which has been apparent since 1961.

CARAVAN DWELLINGS

During the year 24 licences were in force under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. They included 17 in respect of single caravans, the other 7 being for larger sites, involving from 2 to 71 caravans. The total number of caravans permitted on all licensed sites was 182 including 118 on 5 sites which have permanent planning permission.

The remaining 64 caravans on 19 sites are subject to short-term planning consents and licences, which are due to expire on various dates up to the 31st December, 1967. Included in the total is one site for 8 caravans which was closed before the end of the year, having been subject to the run-down procedure.

Conditions at the largest site, at Eaves Green, Meriden, are still not satisfactory, although the time allowed for compliance with the licensing conditions has long expired. Protracted negotiations have taken place with the licensees about drainage, which is an intractable problem in the absence of a public sewer, there being no outfall stream to which the effluent from a private disposal works (which the licensees would provide) could be discharged. Understandably the licensees do not wish to construct additional multiple cesspools on the scale required if some better long-term solution is possible. Linked with the problem is the need for sewerage a dozen or more private houses at Eaves Green, which could be connected to the sewers in Meriden village. Unfortunately these sewers are very old and barely adequate for current needs. The additional discharge from Eaves Green would entail extensive re-sewerage in the village, and the prospect, although not ruled out, is distant.

The Eaves Green caravan site is subject to permanent planning permission. The 71 families there are making their homes permanently on the site and in equity they are as much entitled to public amenities, including a sewer, as are groups of houses. However, the practical difficulties are such that they may have to accept something less than the full standard of amenities for some time to come.

PEST CONTROL AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Number of visits by rodent operator	1,883
Premises found to be infested with rats and/or mice and subsequently treated:—	
Domestic	446
Industrial and commercial	130
Insect infestations treated	133
Drains examined and tested	133
Disinfections:—	
Houses	2
Articles of bedding	30
Visits to slaughterhouses for collection of condemned meat for disposal	215

It has not been possible to maintain a systematic treatment of the Council's sewers for rats owing to limited labour resources, but occasional test baiting has revealed no significant infestations.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 50)

Number of bodies buried by local authority 2

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The initial survey of registered premises was completed before the end of 1965, but 33 additional premises were inspected and recording during 1966. Some of them were new, the remainder being existing premises not previously registered, The following table gives the registration position at the end of the year:—

Class of premises	Premises Registered during year	Total registered premises at end of year	General Inspections during year
Offices	10	78	50
Retail shops	16	230	106
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	4	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	5	56	32
Fuel storage depots	1	4	2
Totals	33	372	193

The total number of visits to registered premises, including re-inspections, was 365. Contraventions of all kinds recorded and dealt with totalled 123, many being of a minor nature. It is felt that the average of about one visit a year to each premises provides adequate supervision. No extra staff has been engaged for this additional duty.

Sixteen notices of accidents were received, involving minor injuries to employees.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Inspections

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	167	142	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises)	15	14	—	—
Total ..	184	157	—	—

Defects found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	28	23	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	31	24	—	3	—

Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel making etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bead stringing	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	4	—	—	—	—	—

